



November 11, 2020

POLICY ON TELEPRACTICE

In light of circumstances created by the Covid-19 pandemic, the AER Accreditation Council approves, through December 31, 2021 the following policy for all higher education programs, agencies and specialized schools pursuing or maintaining accreditation.

Regarding higher education personnel preparation programs:

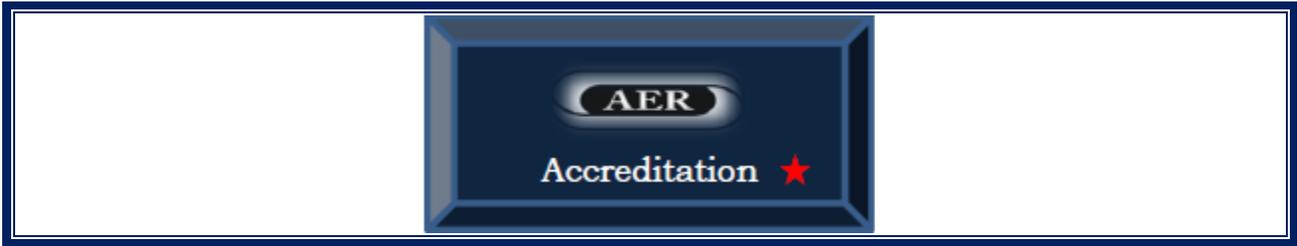
- They will have discretion regarding internship requirements. They may determine the proportion of face to face and remote instruction hours within the total hours currently required, which will be unchanged. All other AERAC standards regarding internship will remain in effect.
- On December 31, 2021 AERAC will re-assess the situation with input from the Higher Education Accreditation Commission.

In addition, AERAC guides accredited agencies and schools and those seeking accreditation/re-accreditation as follows:

- Individual certified professionals and agencies/schools pursuing or maintaining AERAC accreditation will determine whether to engage in, and the extent of, telepractice within their respective organizations.

AERAC cautions both accredited higher education programs and accredited agencies and schools that:

- There is a paucity of data regarding the safety and effectiveness of telepractice. As such, AERAC will not support such practice post-pandemic in the absence of clarifying research. Higher education programs are encouraged to conduct research assessing the efficacy and safety of telepractice techniques. Practitioners should carefully document techniques used and lesson outcomes.



Finally, AERAC provides the following note: all certified professionals engaged in telepractice service delivery are reminded that such instruction does not represent best-practice at this time, and should provide their instruction accordingly:

- All certified professionals are reminded that these recommendations do not relieve or absolve them from their obligation to adhere to the Code of Ethics, e.g., the certified professional is responsible for all outcomes and the safety of the learner is critical to this directive.
- In addition, AERAC accredited higher education programs and accredited agencies and schools are reminded that telepractice cannot be used solely for the convenience of the professional or agency.
- AERAC accredited higher education programs and accredited agencies and schools should not attempt to coerce or force certified professionals in their employ to instruct via teleservice or supervise interns using teleservice. This decision is solely that of the individual certified professional because she is ultimately responsible for all outcomes resulting from that practice.
- AERAC accredited higher education programs and accredited agencies and schools need to be aware that clarification is being sought from Forrest T. Jones. In the meantime, professionals should check with their individual insurance carrier or those representing their employer.

These directives pertain to O&M, CVRT, CLVT, TVI, and CATIS programs and practitioners.